

**Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the
Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board 18 March 1996; 6:00 p.m.
Price Elementary School**

Members and Alternates present:

Mr. Larry Bailey, RAB Base Co-Chair
Mr. Tom Culbertson
Mr. Allan Hagelthorn
Mr. Raul Villar
Dr. Gene Lene
Mr. Sam SanchezMr. Sam Murrah
Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. Nicholas Rodriguez Jr.
Mr. Juan Solis, RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Edward Weinstein
Ms. Annalisa Peace
Mr. Paul Roberson
Mr. Thomas Smith
Mr. Carl Mixon
Mr. Gary Beyer

Kelly Air Force Base Staff present:

Major General Childress
Mr. Michael Estrada
Mr. Colt Fogle
Ms. Sonia Gallegos
Captain Raye Griffin
Mi. Dennis Guadarrama
Ms. Rita Leal
Mr. Daniel Medina
Mr. Michael Patterson Mr. \$tan Pehl
Mr. Ed Roberson
Mr. Cliff Trimble Captain Ed Von Dran Mr. Dick Walters
Ms. Adrienne Williams

Members absent without Alternate:

Mr. Tom Moore
Mr. George Rice
Mr. Charles Ayala
Mr. Roy Gill

Item I: - Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Bailey, Kelly Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. -- no changes to the agenda were recommended. A copy of the agenda is Attachment 1.

During his opening comments, Mr. Bailey asked each RAB member to introduce themselves to the audience.

Item II: - Administrative Topics

A. Approval of minutes, 6 February 1996 RAB meeting.

Minutes of the 5 February 1996 RAB meeting were approved as submitted.

B. Membership Issues

Mr. Solis announced that a member of the Board [Mr. Bill Sain] had tendered his resignation, citing conflict of interest. The resignation was accepted. Mr. Solis also noted that Mr. Gill had missed three consecutive meetings without an alternate present. Mr. Bailey stated that the Board would send a letter to Mr. Gill to determine whether he wishes to remain on the RAB or not.

C. Conflict of Interest - Disclosure/Reminder

Mr. Barley reminded the members that they needed to inform the Board of any conflict of interest regarding issues before the Board.

D. Spills Report

Mr. Bailey announced that there had been no reportable spills since the last formal meeting of the RAB. He noted that Kelly remained committed to disclosing all reportable spills to the Board.

Item III. - Guest Speakers

Mr. Bailey introduced the guest speaker; Major General James Childress, Commander, SA-ALC

A. Remarks by General Childress

General Childress' remarks focused on Kelly's cleanup programs; what is required by law/regulation, the Kelly/Air Force commitment to meet or exceed those requirements to finish the job no matter how long it takes, and Kelly's intentions to get the job done as quickly as is feasible and consistent with regulatory guidelines.

Before any transfer of property can take place, Kelly is required, by law, to make a detailed environmental assessment of the condition of groundwater and soil, and to put the final approved remedial systems in-place to clean the environment to TNRCC standards.

General Childress noted that Kelly had invested some \$100 million, over the last 12 years, to define the problem and implement interim actions to clean-up sites and/or prevent further spread of contamination. To complete the cleanup, Kelly has identified some \$160 million in requirements yet to be done. He noted that, although this is a lot of money and federal funding continues to grow tighter, environmental cleanup has always been available for closing bases because of the legal requirement to complete remediation actions before any transfer of property.

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General Childress emphasized that Kelly has historically been a good neighbor and is committed to continuing to be so. Kelly and the Air Force are committed to cleaning up past mistakes and paving the way for continued Kelly operations under the private sector.

General Childress closed by emphasizing that Kelly is a proud member of the community -- committed to cleanup of Kelly's past mistakes in an air of openness, freely sharing with the community everything that can be shared.

B. Questions/Comments

General Childress accepted questions and comments from the RAB and the public in attendance. In response to the questions and comments, General Childress and the Kelly Staff provided the following information:

The 30 year cleanup period includes regulatory mandated, long-term monitoring of the sites well beyond the completion of actual cleanup operations. From all the studies and analyses, the contamination does not pose a health threat that would drive extraordinary action to effect immediate removal. There are no definitive studies that confirm decreased property values because of contamination. The general agreed to attend a briefing to present a proposed "quicker, cheaper" alternative to Kelly's proposal for Zone 3 off-base contamination. Contamination would not cause [General Childress] to decide not to buy property in the Quintana Road area.

The Board of Directors of the Greater Kelly Development Corporation (GKDC) is developing a plan to ensure contractors adhere to environmental laws and regulations. The GKDC will ensure that all Air Force responsibilities are completed before transfer of property, and that any new operations are structured to preclude future contamination. As a nation, we are all more aware of individual and collective responsibilities concerning safeguarding human health and the environment. There will be many people, at many levels, watching the cleanup and privatization process. GKDC is watching very carefully and the EPA and TNRCC are watching GKDC. GKDC is committed to ensuring that the laws are followed.

Fiscal Year 96 dollars are in-hand for Kelly's share of the Quintarm Road project and will be available as needed. The storm culvert project is over \$5 million. Kelly has committed (and on-hand) \$2.5 million. An additional \$2.5 million is available in case more contamination is found. The extent of contours [limit of contamination] is pretty well known. Money is programmed to characterize and remediate the entire site. Even if not legally required to take a specific cleanup action, Kelly and the Air Force are committed to complete cleanup.

A news story [in Express-News], which sated that contamination extended only a few hundred feet off-base, was in error. The Express-News didn't get that information in a news release from Kelly. The information given to the industry group showed actual contours. Kelly "opened the books" for them. All of the charts showed actual contours based on latest information. Kelly will provide acreage figures for the affected area. The reporter got the [false] information from his own sources.

The Air Force is committed to completion of total cleanup. After Kelly closes, in 2001, there will be a continuing, local mechanism to continue the cleanup program.

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The Base Closure Agency was created specifically for that mission. TNRCC issues post-closure care permits for all remedial actions. The TNRCC will be another "local" mechanism to ensure continuation of cleanup. TNRCC gets funding from many sources. Some comes from DOD.

Flying activities will continue after Kelly is realigned. Therefore, any construction restrictions based on compatibility with that mission will likely remain in effect.

Kelly has come out to sample odors during refueling operations at the POL tanks near the 36th Street entrance to Kelly. So far nothing has been found that would pose a health risk. Also, Kelly has changed to a type of fuel which gives off less vapors. Kelly will provide a number for concerned residents to call. When this number is called, someone will come out immediately to sample the vapors, while residents are experiencing the problem. This is [General Childress] commitment.

There is no off-base health clinic associated with Kelly that people can go to regarding health problems from contamination.

As there were no more questions, General Childress thanked the Board and the audience and concluded his remarks by reemphasizing that Kelly and the Air Force are in the remediation efforts for the "long haul" and will not "walk away" from responsibilities and commitments.

Item IV. - Break

Mr. Solis announced a break at 7:15 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m..

Item V - Defense Environmental Response Task Force Orientation/Preview

Mr. Bailey introduced Mr. Shah Choudhory, from the Defense Environmental Response Task Force (DERTF). Mr. Bailey also announced that Ms. Sherri Goodman, the most senior environmental person in the DOD, and the DERTF would be visiting San Antonio, May 8 & 9. A copy of Mr. Choudhory's slides are attachment 2.

Mr. Choudhory's presentation explained the origins, composition, and mission of the DERTF. The DERTF is chaired by Ms. Goodman. The remaining eight members represent the U.S. Attorney General, the General Services Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Governor's Association. The national Association of Attorney's General, and industry or environmental groups appointed by the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

The DERTF, established by Congress, is charged with evaluating the environmental cleanup process as it is applied to closing bases, and to recommend changes to the cleanup process to expedite the return of federal properties to productive private, commercial enterprise.

The DERTF will visit San Antonio, May 8th and 9th. They will be looking at such issues as future land use, BRAC activities at Kelly, privatization of Kelly workload, and measures of merit associated with the process. DERTF meetings will be in the Sheraton Fiesta Hotel.

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The DERTF will also attend a RAB meeting. The RAB process is the result of one DERTF recommendation for improving the base Closure cleanup process. DERTF does not want to set the RAB agenda. The DERTF wants to observe the RAB, hence they are coming to the RAB, rather than asking the RAB to come to them. The DERTF functions in an oversight role. They wish to see one of their initiatives [RABs] in action. DERTF has visited five RAB meetings. Local environmental officials, EPA or TNRCC [vice the DERTF] should be best able to help the Board with issues of off-base contamination.

Mr. Choudhory closed by presenting Mr. Solis with a copy of the last DERTF report and a directory of current RABs.

Mr. Bailey then reiterated that DERTF will be in San Antonio May 8th & 9th. Their agenda is being finalized. The Co-chairs are working on possible dates for the next RAB meeting that would mesh with the DERTF schedule, allowing them to attend.

Item VI - Environmental Cleanup Update

Capt. Von Dran (Kelly Staff) prefaced his remarks with an explanation that Kelly plans to provide a "street-by-street" description of both on and off-base contamination. That presentation, for Zone 3, is planned for the next RAB meeting. The current presentation was of Zone 2. The point was to introduce the RAB and the public to the graphics and terms of these descriptions so that the Zone 3 presentation will be easier to grasp.

After his presentation (slides at attachment 3), and in response to a wide range of questions, Capt. Von Dran and other Kelly Staff provided the following information:

- ⇒ The groundwater referred to is "shallow" groundwater.
- ⇒ The contamination and remedial activities in Zone 2 have no effect on the Quintana Road area.
- ⇒ Reinjection of treated water is not planned - recent studies have discounted reinjection as a viable or effective element of remedial actions in Zone 2.
- ⇒ The recovery trench near Site E-1 was an Interim Remedial Action (ORA) to prevent contamination from reaching and contaminating Leon Creek.
- ⇒ The Site E-1 trench is some 60-70 feet from Leon Creek.
- ⇒ The contaminated water which is pumped from Zone 2 goes to Kelly's UV-Oxidation Plant for treatment to destroy the contaminants.
- ⇒ A complete list of contaminants can be found in either the downtown library or the Kelly repositories. In general they are solvents, fuels, oils, heavy metals, and various byproducts of the natural breakdown of solvents and fuels.
- ⇒ Groundwater flows toward the base from the area of Briggs & Pitlick on Quintana Road, therefore it's unlikely that contamination is going the other way.
- ⇒ Orange stakes in community yard(s) are not related to any Kelly activities.
- ⇒ Kelly is interested in historical "recollection(s)" about past activity at Kelly that could have resulted in contamination.

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- ⇒ Zone 3 information will be presented at the next RAB meeting.
- ⇒ Recommendation to put a repository of Kelly's IRP Administrative Record at Price Elementary, School to provide easier community access will be looked into.
- ⇒ Displays of Zone 3 contamination and remedial activities will be set up at the May meeting.
- ⇒ Armstrong Laboratories will present a "lay language" discussion of health risks at the "South San Proud" meeting at The Royal Palace on 25 March.

Tom Culbertson distributed a bulletin and urged attendance at a meeting at Trinity University on 27 March. A copy of the bulletin is attachment 4.

Item VII - New Business

There was no new business.

Item VIII - Summary and Closing

Mr. Bailey reiterated that the DERTF will be in San Antonio the 8th & 9th of May and requested the Board consider May 8th for the next RAB meeting to facilitate DERTF attendance.

Next Meeting: The board set May 8th, 6:00 p.m. at Price Elementary School for the next RAB meeting.

Mr. Sanchez suggested the agenda be short -- just Zone 3 presentation -- to allow time to interface with the DERTF.

Mr. Smith suggested discussion of health surveys -- what can and cannot be done legally. Mr. Sanchez suggested that the Armstrong Laboratories people would be able to talk about this in their presentation at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. DERTF Presentation Slides
3. Environmental Cleanup Update Slides
4. Bulletin presented by Mr. Tom Culbertson